

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The present claims are restricted to the forming of a multi-colored motif in a tire, wherein both colors are visible to an observer of the motif.

With reference to Figs. 4 and 5 of the present application, there is disclosed a process wherein uncured colored rubber mix 201, 202 is deposited in a cavity 310 formed in an insert 300, wherein the colored rubber is color-contrasting with respect to an uncured blank from which the tire is to be molded. The total volume of uncured colored rubber mix (V1) which is deposited in the cavity is less than the total volume (V0) of the cavity. In particular, the uncured colored rubber comprises a plurality of layers of different respective colors which are deposited successively one upon the other in such a way that a subsequently-deposited layer (e.g., layer 121, 202 in Fig. 4) has at least a portion thereof projecting laterally past a periphery of a previously-deposited layer (e.g., layer 122, 201 in Figs. 4, 5). Thereafter, the insert is mounted in a recess provided in a molding surface 410 of a tire mold 400. The uncured blank is engaged within the mold, and then the uncured blank and the uncured colored rubber are vulcanized. The vulcanized colored rubber forms a multi-colored motif. Then, the insert is removed from the motif to reveal the multiple colors 121 and 122 of the motif, which colors are visible to an observer of the motif, as is apparent from Fig. 5.

None of the references of record discloses or suggests the forming of a multi-colored motif during the molding of a tire, wherein the multiple colors are different from the color of the blank from which the main portion of the tire is formed.

Original claim 4 was directed to a multi-colored motif, and the multi-color aspect of that claim was considered obvious over the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 2,985,216 to Williams et al.

However, that patent merely discloses to attach a multi-colored appliqué to an already formed tire, as described in the paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3 of Williams et al. There is no suggestion of forming a multi-colored motif during the molding of a tire, as presently claimed.

It is noted in passing that U.S. Patent No. 5,296,077 to Bohm et al discloses to form a white sidewall by the insertion of a band 248 in a tire mold, wherein the band comprises a white decorative layer 256 and a barrier layer 254. However, the barrier layer is formed of black rubber so as to be undetectable. That fact is made clear in column 4, lines 62-69 of Bohm et al. Furthermore, there would be no reason to form the barrier layer 256 of a decorative color, since it is likely not visible to an observer of the sidewall in the finished tire. (In contrast, the present claims recite that a subsequently-deposited layer has at least a portion thereof projecting beyond a periphery of a previously deposited layer.) Certainly, none of the prior art of record provides any motivation for the presently claimed feature.

The specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis for language now used in the claims, which language merely refers to structure clearly shown in, or apparent from, the original disclosure.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that new claim 12 distinguishes patentably over the applied prior art, and allowance of that claim and all claims dependent therefrom is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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